

July/August 2011



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

JULY/AUGUST BAY LEAF IS ONLINE ONLY

As announced in the June *Bay Leaf*, this issue of the *Bay Leaf* will not be printed. Instead, it is available electronically via email and on our website, www.ebcnps.org. We decided have an electronic only issue to save money: the printed *Bay Leaf* costs about \$1,000 per issue: the cost of 11 printed issues is the largest single item in the chapter budget. We have a budgeted deficit of about \$8,000 and as a result we are looking for ways to reduce expenses. One saving was to reduce the number of printed *Bay Leafs* from 11 to 10.

But we still wanted 11 *Bay Leafs*, so we have made the summer issue online only. An advantage is we can have lots of pictures and they are all in color!

This is an experiment. More and more organizations are eliminating some or all of their printed material and relying on the internet for notices and newsletters. The costs of printed material means it is likely we will have to depend on

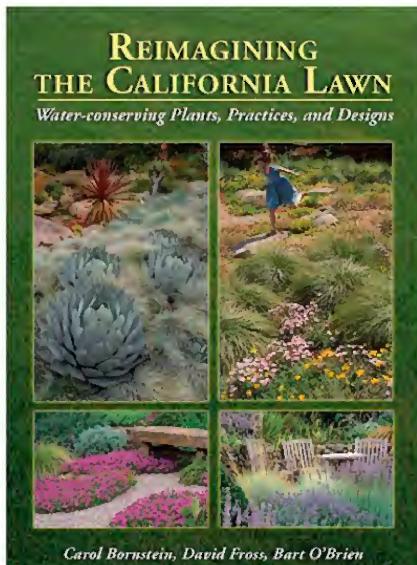
the internet even more in the future. One idea is to have the newsletter online but mail a one page summary of articles and announcements mailed to all members, but no decisions have been made and the printed *Bay Leaf* will return in September and the 2010/2011 Chapter budget funds 10 printed *Bay Leafs*.

Note that all issues of the *Bay Leaf* are available in electronic form. Subscribers have the option of being notified that the online edition of the *Bay Leaf* is ready instead of being mailed a paper copy.

We are very interested in the reaction of our readers. Please send comments to pepe1066@comcast.net (editor Joe Willingham's email).

Joe Willingham (Editor) and *David Margolies* (Assistant Editor)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER



See you in September (at the next membership meeting)!

Membership meetings will be on summer recess until September. But mark your calendar now for a great program and book signing when we resume in September with our regular meeting on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month:

Wednesday, September 28, 7:30 pm, Orinda Public Library Auditorium

Speaker: Bart O'Brien, Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Reimagining the California Lawn: Turn that flat green ecological desert into a three-dimensional native plant paradise.

The cover of a book on the subject of the program, of which Mr. O'Brien is a co-author, is shown at left.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

The beginning of July will mark my fourth month as Conservation Analyst. After only a few months in this position, I already feel welcome as part of the EBCNPS family and the greater East Bay conservation community. I have had the pleasure of meeting many EBCNPS members in person, and I look forward to meeting the rest of you in the future. In the last two months, I have been busy working on several projects of interest for the East Bay Chapter Area. The two projects that have been my main recent focus have been the potential solar development in Eastern Alameda County, and the Oakland Zoo Expansion.



Mack Casterman

East County Solar

EBCNPS has been closely following Alameda County's early stages of creating a comprehensive policy for solar development. So far the county planners have held several "Community Meetings" asking for input from citizens, ranchers, and conservation organizations including EBCNPS. Alameda County's future solar policy is especially of interest to EBCNPS since there are currently three solar projects ranging in size from 150 acres to over 1000 acres in either the development, application or planning phases. All three projects fall within our Altamont Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA) and have therefore made solar policy a high priority for us. I have written a letter to the Planning Department noting our concerns that any development of solar infrastructure needs to take into account rare native plants and natural communities. A complete copy of this letter can be found on our blog: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>. In this letter, I state CNPS's concerns, including: the need for a complete public review process (EIR under CEQA) of any policies; the need for solar policy to be consistent with existing county policies

regulating the zoning and use of public and farm land in the county; and the importance of the Altamont BPPA's natural communities including Northern Claypan Vernal Pools, Alkaline Grassland and Valley Sink Scrub. The fact that solar policy is still a relatively new issue for county planners, and that any policy adopted by Alameda County has the potential to set precedent for other counties throughout the state makes proper and complete public review even more essential. EBCNPS has been working with the Sierra Club, Save Mt. Diablo, and the Ohlone Audubon Society to ensure that sensitive natural resources are considered as this planning process continues forward.

Oakland Zoo Expansion

For the last several months, EBCNPS has been hard at work on the proposed Oakland Zoo expansion onto the western knolls of Knowland Park. In its current design, this development project will directly impact one of the most sensitive areas of our Foothills of South Oakland BPPA. The planned zoo footprint will result in the destruction of oak woodlands, native chaparral, and over four acres of rare native Valley Needlegrass Grassland that in many experts' opinion is one of the most pristine examples of native grassland in the East Bay. The sad irony of this project is that the Zoo is marketing this theme park as a "conservation" project. They have stated that the impacts to native plant communities can be justified by their own conservation message embodied in the exhibits. On display will be California native animals that are now rare or extinct due to destruction of their native habitat.

We have asked repeatedly that this project be subjected to a complete Environmental Impact Report that would include alternatives to the current plan, but the city and the Zoo have refused to consider our input. Instead, they have piggybacked this new project on a Mitigated Negative Declaration written in 1997 while at the same time making large scale changes that we believe constitutes a new project and thus requires a new Environmental Impact Report. EBCNPS has submitted several letters to the Oakland Planning department explaining the issues with the current plan and providing information regarding the infeasibility of the proposed mitigation measures. We have also met with the Zoo to try to explain this project's issues, but so far our comments and suggestions have been either rejected or simply ignored. On May 9, EBCNPS, along with the Friends of Knowland Park and the California Native Grasslands Association, filed an appeal in response to the Planning Commission's recommendation of the above plan to the City Council. Unfortunately, the City Council uncritically supports the Zoo, and on June 21st the Council voted unanimously to deny our appeal and approve the SMND/A, in spite of an inadequate planning process, insufficient mitigations, and large-scale changes in the original plan. Despite this challenging setback, EBCNPS remains committed to this project. We will continue to explore our options for ensuring this destructive project that the Zoo is falsely (and ironically) labeling as a "conservation exhibit" is not allowed to continue in its current form.

In other news, we had an excellent Conservation Committee meeting on June 14th where we discussed these issues as well as other current EBCNPS projects in detail.

For more information on the above projects and updates on everything else we are working on, please visit the conservation blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>. If you need to contact me, I am available by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org.

Mack Casterman
Conservation Analyst

The photos below are by Mack. The upper is the site of the zoo expansion. The lower is a view of Knowland Park.



NATIVE HERE AND 2011 PLANT FAIR

The 2011 Native Plant Fair will be held at Native Here Nursery on October 1 and 2. There will be a wonderful selection of local native plants and bulbs, and outside vendors have been invited to sell plant and nature related items. This year's speakers (Laura Cunningham and Richard Schwartz) are both authors and will have book stalls. There will also be poster displays, so if you have a project related to native plant restoration, gardening, conservation or natural history, contact nativehere@ebcnps.org to arrange for display space. Decorated hats may be brought to the Fair for judging, or hats may be decorated at an activity booth. A potted plant show will be judged by Fair attendees. Enter a native plant in a container. Entries must be light enough to carry by hand, and may be dropped off at Native Here during regular open hours the week before the Fair and up until noon on Saturday, October 1. Watch for more information on the web site as Fair time approaches.

You can help! Preparations for the Fair are ongoing. The committee is actively working and can use assistance with plant care, sign preparation, preparing for the care and feeding of volunteers during the Fair, and helping with logistics and set-up. Come by Native Here Nursery any time it is open and let us know your interest in being part of the Fair Committee. Bring a lunch and enjoy the green peacefulness of the nursery setting.

Messages may also be left at 510-549-0211 or e-mail nativehere@ebcnps.org.

As fall approaches, Elaine Jackson will be coordinating the volunteers needed the week before, during and after the Fair. Contact her at elainejx@att.net or phone 925-372-0687.

Native Here Nursery

Activity at the nursery this summer includes potting up thousands of cuttings and seedlings. Because of the unusual weather pattern, some species we ordinarily have trouble germinating have really taken off. The down side is that some of our old favorites have done less well than in more "normal" years. *Iris douglasiana* bloomed repeatedly, allowing us

to determine that there are a dozen different color/pattern/forms, so this fall we will be able to have some Iris coded to indicate the appearance of their blooms offered at the Plant Fair. There will also be ferns available for the Plant Fair.

Do you live in or near Livermore? If so, we have some fabulous plants for your area including the wet-growers *Hoita macrostachya* and *Anemopsis californica*. Drier areas could take *Cupressus sargentii* or the little used (because seldom available) shrub *Rhamnus ilicifolia*. You don't have to wait until the Plant Fair to purchase these. Walnut Creek residents will delight in two new additions—*Eriophyllum lanatum* and *Eryngium aristulatum* which are now available.

If you aren't familiar with these or other plants you see growing in Alameda and Contra Costa wildlands, pick up the CD prepared by Janice Bray, available at the nursery, which has photographs and descriptions of well over 300 local species of plants.

The nursery is located at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park (on the Berkeley side) and is open Tuesday afternoons, noon to 3 pm, Friday mornings 9 am to noon, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

The list of plants for fall 2011 will be posted on the chapter website www.ebcnps.org sometime in September. Come visit this summer to see the constantly changing offerings. The phone number at the nursery is 510 549-0211, e-mail nativehere@ebcnps.org.

If you are planning to volunteer during the Plant Fair, try coming in this summer to get acquainted with the layout of the nursery, the plants we have available, and how we handle sales.

The nursery accepts payment by cash, check, debit card, and for purchases over \$20, by Visa or Mastercard.

Charli Danielsen and Margot Cunningham

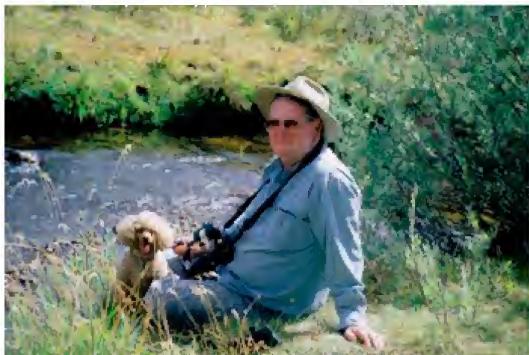
SIBLEY REGIONAL PARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The new park Supervisor at Sibley Regional Park is eager to have volunteers help with weed control. In June, Janet Gawthrop, John Slaymaker and Wendy Tokuda showed up and hit a wall—a wall of broom. On the up side, heading out on the shady trail, we saw all kinds of beautiful natives, including sword fern, snowberry and Douglas iris. In the field adjacent to this stand of broom there are many native grasses and *Eriogonum nudum*. Undaunted, we ask for your help! Please come attack the *Genista* on our now regular workday—the third Sunday of the month. Sibley trailhead at 9 am. The Park provides tools and snacks. The photo to the right shows Janet, John, and endy taking a brief break.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Meet John Rusk. John, shown in a photo by his wife, Michiko Rusk, is a longtime member who was an active volunteer at the Plant Fair when it was at Merritt College. Now his activities are focused on the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, including serving as registrar of their education program. They are one of the few local organizations (along with the Jepson Herbarium and the CNPS) that provide serious botanical educational opportunities for Bay Area adults.



I feel a bit of a fraud writing this piece, for it has been several years since I was active in the East Bay chapter.

I joined CNPS around 1990 when it became apparent that I needed to learn more about those little green things I was photographing. I attended nearly every membership meeting. I went on hikes about once a month. I participated in field trips up and down California. I pored over Munz, then Jepson 2 and the *Flora of North America*, even reading the front matter of those tomes. Slowly, I learned.

I also read the *Bay Leaf*. In those days, each *Bay Leaf* had an invitation to join Shirley McPheeters and Roy West propagating plants for the annual CNPS plant sale, which was then held at Merritt College. As my (paid) work life slowed down, I found that I had time on my hands. I knew two things. First, if I didn't force myself to participate in outside activities I would become a recluse. Secondly, I, like so many men, found myself underfoot as my wife went about her tasks.

One Tuesday morning in 1996 (I think), I drove to Merritt College to volunteer. That first day I learned that propagation was largely a matter of taking plants out of little pots and putting them into bigger pots. Thursday of that week, I started volunteering at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden as well. Shirley was patient with me. She never called me an idiot but she did point out that I was making the same mistakes week after week. I improved and her corrections came fewer and farther between. She began teaching me the nuances. Certain cuttings had to be handled with care for their roots were tender; other plants needed their roots teased out as

they were transferred to larger pots. And above all: "Don't bury the crown!"

What surprised me was that I, who always had difficulty forming friendships, formed some of the deepest attachments of my life: Shirley, of course, and Roy, who has gone on to bigger things, but also the two Lees—the talented artist Lee McCaffree and dear Lee Hartman. I hesitate to list names because I will leave somebody out. There's also Marguerite Harrell, Linda Newton, and the woman who convinced me to write this piece, Elaine Jackson. There's Barbara, Liz, Sandy, Caroline, Toni, Ed, and more. I meet with many of them a couple of times each year.

The plant sale at Merritt came to an end, as all things must. The plant sale lives on in a different form at the Native Plant Fair held at our East Bay Chapter's Native Here nursery in Tilden. And that is good.

But the end of the plant sale at Merritt College led me to increase my volunteer participation at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Not only do I still help propagating plants (increasing infirmities have led me to assume more of a gray-beard role), but I also became the registrar for the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden classes. I have lately assumed editorship of a new enewsletter promoting the garden (feel free to subscribe at www.nativeplants.org).

I will end by saying that I love plants--and plant people, almost as much. Volunteer! You'll be doing nice things for plants among nice people.

John Rusk

Please join us in welcoming our new members for April/May time frame Beth Christian, Patricia Durell, Christopher Gurney, Susan Hodges, Terry Johnson, Brian Kerss, Christopher Kroll, David Litty, Camille Nowell, Carolyn O'Connell, Patricia Overshiner, Sylvia Rose, Jody Steffen-Campbell, Hilary Twitchell, Diane Vervoort, & Charlene Wisman

As always, a huge thank you to our renewing members
**Opportunity to meet and greet the public for CNPS
Volunteer to help our Plant Fair 2011 October 1st and 2nd**

Reminders

- Still looking for join dates prior to 1986
- Outreach Coordinator position still vacant
- Restoration Chair, vacant
- Be sure and visit our updated membership page at <http://ebcnps.org/index.php/membership/>

Elaine Jackson
elainejx@att.net 925-372-0687

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, July 2, 9 am, Genista rip at Redwood Regional Park

Directions: From Highway 13, exit at Park if you are coming from south of Oakland. Turn left at the exit ramp to go over 13, and turn left again at the traffic light on the other side of the freeway. You will now be on Mountain, which you follow north for a couple of blocks before turning right on Snake (with another traffic light). If you are coming from the north, exit at Moraga/Thornhill and drive south on Moraga to Snake.

To get to Redwood RP, go straight uphill as Snake turns off to the left. You will now be on Shepherd Canyon Road, and you should see Shepherd Canyon Park to the right. Follow this road to the end, and turn right at the junction of Shepherd Canyon and Skyline. Follow Skyline as it winds south, and turn left into the parking lot with the park sign.

Also on the morning of July 2, Tom and Jane Kelly will meet their monthly crew in the parking area for Pt. Isabel at Eastshore State Park. For more directions/information, e-mail kyotousa@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, July 16, 9:30 am at Huckleberry Regional Park

Saturday, 9:00 am at Serpentine Prairie in Redwood Regional Park

The unusual clash of dates is due to the Trail Day maintenance on Saturday July 9, resulting in a later week for restoration crews.

Meet at the Huckleberry parking lot, where we will select a worksite and tools for this ongoing project. As the Italian thistle will likely have gone to seed by mid-July, we will select other invasive targets for removal, which include cape ivy, *Genista*, *Vinca*, and forget-me-nots. Again, please e-mail ahead of time if you need loaner gloves or tools, either to janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or jmanley@ebparks.org. Or, just show up if you're prepared for conditions.

Directions to Huckleberry Regional Park: From Highway 13, exit at Park if you are coming from south of Oakland. Turn left at the exit ramp to go over 13, and turn left again at the traffic light on the other side of the freeway. You will now be on Mountain, which you follow north for a couple of blocks before turning right on Snake (with another traffic light). If you are coming from the north, exit at Moraga/Thornhill and drive south on Moraga to Snake.

To reach Huckleberry RP, follow the directions above until you start onto Snake. After only 2 short blocks on Snake, make a hard left turn to stay on Snake. Follow Snake to where it ends at Skyline, roughly 2 miles from the left turn away from Shepherd Canyon. Turn left onto Skyline and follow it a short distance to the Huckleberry sign and parking lot on the right.

On Saturday, July 16 at 9 am, yellow star thistle wreckers will meet Pamela Beitz of East Bay Regional Parks at the Trudeau Center parking lot (once the Regional Parks headquarters), and then hike into the Serpentine Prairie to pull and cut YST at the base before it can flower and set seed. Be sure to wear durable gloves and long pants to protect against thistles, and again, e-mail DRosario@ebparks.org to let park staff know how much water and tools to bring. There are often late blooms at Serpentine Prairie to enjoy, especially *Calochortus luteus* and *Clarkia rubicunda*, and a plethora of native bunchgrasses to key out.

Sunday, July 17, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park

Meet at the Old Tunnel Road Staging Area, which is a much shorter distance to the new work area than the Skyline parking lot. There is a large *Genista* thicket next to the Sibley to Tilden leg of the Bay Crest Trail. This area lies within a few meters of a stream canyon, and the shaded ground should remain soft enough to continue pulling broom. It is best to RSVP by e-mail to either janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or to jmanley@ebparks.org, and let us know if you need water, tools, or gloves, and instructions on how to reach Old Tunnel Road Staging Area.

Sunday, July 24, 9 am Serpentine Prairie at Redwood Regional Park

Meet at the Trudeau Center parking lot. We will return to take out the yellow star thistle at slopes within the prairie, where we can also take in the past year's tree work and with luck, some late wildflowers and grasses. As before, it's best to RSVP regional park staff at DRosario@ebparks.org to let them know how much water, tools and gloves to bring. We also recommend bringing a hand lens and a local plant key, or Beecher Crampton's *Grasses of California*.

For drivers, take Highway 13, which you can access at either its north or south end from 580. Leave 13 at the Joaquin Miller Road exit, and then follow Joaquin Miller Road uphill and northeast to its end at the stoplight with Skyline. At the stoplight, bear right onto Skyline, which is almost the same as going straight. The Trudeau parking lot will be on your left less than one block after the stoplight; Crestmont meets Skyline on the other side of the parking lot entrance, but it does not continue into the park.

For mass transit/uphill walkers: From Fruitvale BART, you can take the AC Transit # 54 bus uphill all the way to the last stop before Merritt College, or you can take the #57 bus to MacArthur and 35th Avenue to transfer to the #54 line. 35th Ave. will change its name to Redwood Road as it goes uphill. Above Highway 13, the #54 bus will turn right at the traffic light for Campus Drive and Redwood Road. Be sure to signal for the stop to get off at the corner of Campus and Redwood, or the bus will continue south (away from Skyline). Follow Redwood uphill to its intersection with Skyline, and then

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Chapter Directory

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diannelake@yahoo.com

EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Native Here Nursery
510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Plant Fair

Charli Daniels, Chair
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Lesley Hunt, Native Here/Plant Fair-East Bay Chapter Board liaison
925-937-6791
lhunt@astound.net

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and Jane Kelly
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom and Jane Kelly

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

turn left and follow Skyline to the entrance at the Trudeau Training Center.

Saturday, August 6, 9 am, Redwood Regional Park (Skyline Gate crew) and Pt. Isabel at Eastshore State Park

See description for July 2 for details and contact information.

Saturday, August 20, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

Saturday, August 20, 9:00 am, Serpentine Prairie

See July 16 descriptions of these two restoration teams, with

FIELD TRIP

Sunday, July 10, 10:00 am, Redwood Regional Park, trip to focus on sedges and late-fruiting plants

We will see about 5 species of sedge. Learn some basics of sedge ID and morphology (sculptural shapes of plant parts in botany). A copy of the *Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges* and also the key from the 2011 *Jepson Manual* will be available for reference. We will take Redwood Peak trail, French trail, Starflower trail, Tres Sendas trail, and Stream trail.

Directions: Get onto Skyline Drive in the Oakland hills, either from Highway 13 from the north or 580 from the south. From

contact information and apologies for the inconvenience of schedule conflict.

Sunday, August 21, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park

Again, we will start to our summer location from the Old Tunnel Road Staging Area. See July 17 above for a description and where to RSVP if you need gloves or tools.

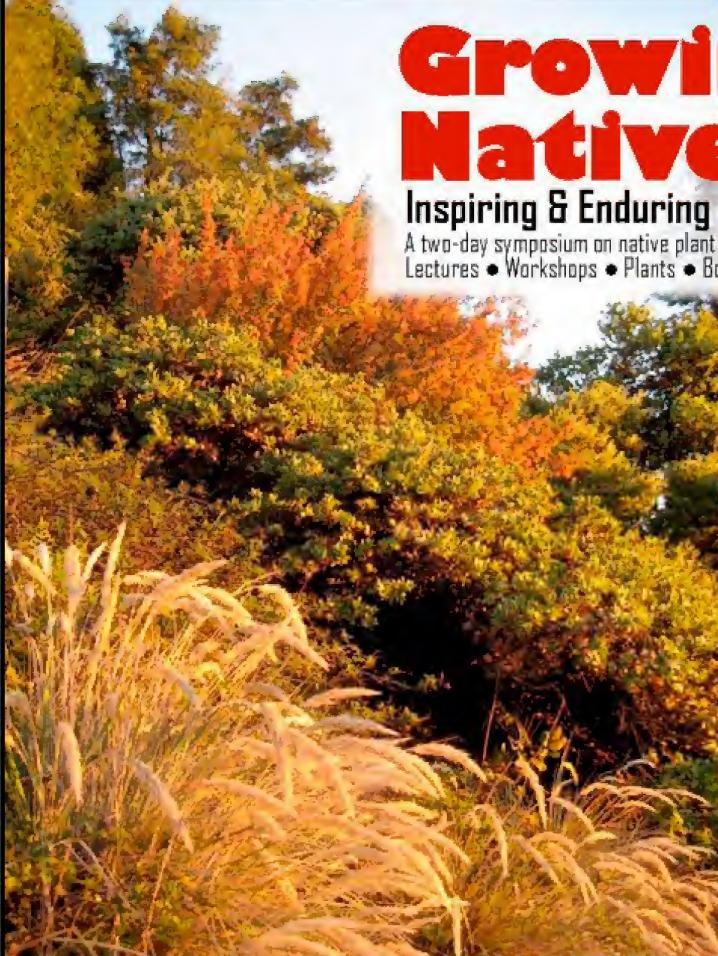
13, the most direct route is the Joaquin Miller exit, and then take Joaquin Miller Road to Skyline. Turn left at the light for Joaquin Miller and Skyline, and follow Skyline north (mostly uphill) as you go to the Chabot Space Science Center roughly a mile north of Joaquin Miller Road. Turn into the driveway for the Space Center and park either in the lot or in the parking garage, which is free. Ignore the no trespassing signs as the do not apply to park or science center users. Gregg Weber is leading and you can call him at 510-223-3310 if you have questions.



Yellow mariposa lily (*Calochortus luteus*), East Ridge section of Redwood Regional Park, June 27, 2011.
Photo by Kevin Hintsa



Longleaf Indian paintbrush, (*Castilleja subinclusa*), Redwood Regional Park, June 24 ,2011. This species is rare in the East Bay. Photo by Kevin Hintsa.



Growing Natives:

Inspiring & Enduring Gardens

A two-day symposium on native plant gardening
Lectures • Workshops • Plants • Books

**Saturday
Lectures:**
Carol Bornstein
Michael Craib
David Fross
Luke Hass
Deva Luna

**Sunday
Workshops:**
Jocelyn Cohen
Steve Edwards
Katherine Greenberg
Don Mahoney
Pete Veilleux

Support provided by:



Sponsors:



**Saturday, September 17, 2011: Lafayette
Sunday, September 18, 2011: Berkeley**

Information: www.pacifichorticulture.org • 510-849-1627
Earlybird Registration Deadline: June 30, 2011

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**

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**Time Value
July/August 2011 issue**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here, page 4

Tuesdays: Seed collecting leaves Native Here at 9 am
Native Here open noon-three pm
Fridays: Native Here open nine-noon
Saturdays: Native Here open ten am-two pm

Plant Fair, page 4

October 1 and 2.

Restoration, page 7

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Sunday, August 21, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park

Field trip, page 7

Sunday, July 10, 10:00 am, Redwood Regional Park, trip to focus on sedges and late-fruiting plants

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)
 Other _____

Membership category:

Individual, \$45
 Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
 Plant lover, \$100
 Patron, \$300
 Benefactor, \$600
 Mariposa Lily, \$1500
 Limited Income or student, \$25.00
 Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816